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SORGHUM E-Notes

May 27, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Continues to Work for Sorghum's Place in RFS2

NSP CEO Tim Lust and Strategic Business Director Chris Cogburn traveled to Florida last week in an effort to move forward with a petition for sweet sorghum to obtain an RFS2 RIN number. NSP will continue to work with the private industry and expect to have a petition to EPA by July. Next week, NSP staff, board and industry members will continue this effort in Washington, DC, visiting congressional offices to help influence EPA.

DCP and ACRE Signup Deadline June 1

The deadline to sign up for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program is Tuesday, June 1. More than 75 percent of an expected 1.7 million farms have already enrolled, according to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). For 2010, eligible producers may receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each covered commodity. Final direct payments will be issued in October.

For details on how to qualify for partial advance payments under DCP, or for information on how ACRE can be used as a risk-management tool, go to www.fsa.usda/dcp.

Sorghum Exports Boosted by Developing Moroccan Market

Investments by U.S. sorghum farmers in international markets are paying off, according to recent data from the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), which shows an increase in sorghum exports this year. Year to date U.S. sorghum exports have reached 106 million bushels, with 12 weeks remaining in the fiscal year. Total sorghum exports for the year are expected to be around 130 million bushels, up 29 percent from last year's 101 million bushels, says Florentino Lopez, marketing director for the United Sorghum Checkoff Program.

A developing interest in Morocco is helping to drive the export increase. In 2009, Morocco went from importing no sorghum at all to nearly 70,000 tons (2.6 million bushels) so far this marketing, according to USDA's Global Agricultural Trade System. The Sorghum Checkoff and the U.S. Grains Council has since hosted teams of Moroccan importers and poultry buyers so they could see U.S. sorghum production firsthand. The first mission, held last fall, actually yielded some sales to the foreign importers, Lopez said. The most recent mission was held this week and allowed Moroccan poultry buyers to see sorghum production in South Texas. The group also traveled to Mexico, which has similar climatic conditions, economic situations and currency devaluation risks as Morocco, to see how it is used as a poultry ration.

Texas sorghum producer Bill Kubecka hosted the team at his farm in Palacios, Texas. "This mission gave us an opportunity to meet with the actual buyers and to explain our industry to them," Kubecka said. "We have the potential to provide them with a quality product and to develop relationships that could result in business in the future."

Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission Administrator

The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission is seeking a dynamic, outgoing, part-time administrator with excellent communication and leadership skills. A bachelor's degree is required, and knowledge of grain production and marketing, and bookkeeping experience is preferred. Applicant must have valid driver's license and willingness to travel. Please send inquiries, cover letter and resume to kgscadministrator@wamego.net. The deadline for applications is June 4, 2010.

Mixed Rainfall Aids Sorghum Progress in Some Areas

By the end of the week, 42 percent of the sorghum crop was planted, 2 percent behind both last year and the 5-year average. Rainfall, totaling one inch or more, limited fieldwork to 2 days throughout much of Kansas, the largest sorghum-producing state. In Texas, sorghum in the Northern Low Plains began emerging, while much-needed rainfall in South Texas brought relief to the dryland crop.

About Sorghum Notes

Sorghum Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers. The organization serves as the voice of the sorghum industry from coast to coast through education and legislative and regulatory representation. To learn more about NSP visit our website at www.sorghumgrowers.com. Write to us at National Sorghum Producers, 4201 N Interstate 27, Lubbock, TX 79403. To unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes, please reply to lindsay@sorghumgrowers.com. If you have questions about the sorghum industry or the National Sorghum Producers, please do not hesitate to call NSP at (800) 658-9808.

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Quote of the Week:

"Only he can understand what a farm is, what a country is, who shall have sacrificed part of himself to his farm or country, fought to save it, struggled to make it beautiful. Only then will the love of farm or country fill his heart."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944)

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